

# *News Clippings*

## *3/13/08*

### **FIRE**

#### **Anderson**

9:54 p.m.: Bounce City reopens, for now

[Read the Article](#)

### **FLOODING**

#### **Monticello**

Flood deadline looms

[Read the Article](#)

Published March 12, 2008 09:55 pm - Bounce City reopened Wednesday after negotiating safety precautions with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, but further censure from the city of Anderson is likely, authorities say.

## 9:54 p.m.: Bounce City reopens, for now

By Barrett Newkirk

Bounce City reopened Wednesday after negotiating safety precautions with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, but further censure from the city of Anderson is imminent.

The indoor playground on Anderson's south side, which closed for two days earlier this week, must limit occupancy to no more than 1,000 people and have two firefighters on site during business hours until its owners correct several safety issues, said Pam Bright, spokeswoman for the state's Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the state fire marshal's office.

According to Bright, Bounce City has no fire-alarm system, no documentation of an annual test for its sprinkler system, inflatable playground equipment blocking sprinkler heads, insufficient exit widths, loose chords creating trip hazards and no amusement or entertainment business permit.

"These are some pretty serious violations here," Bright said. "If they weren't, we wouldn't have closed them down."

A judge will likely set a deadline for bringing Bounce City up to code at an emergency hearing scheduled for Friday in Indianapolis with Bounce City's attorney, Adam Davis.

He and Scott Hester, a co-owner of the business, dispute the claims by the fire marshal's office.

"We believe there are some mistakes," Davis said. "It's not really as unsafe as they make it sound. That doesn't mean that there doesn't need to be checks and balances."

Hester said he's made all the needed repairs and that except for a fundraising event for Kris Ockomon last year that brought 4,000 people to Bounce City, the business has stayed under the 1,000 maximum occupancy limit.

But additional safety and building code violations could come from Anderson city officials by the end of the week.

Michael Widing, the city's building commissioner, said he has prepared a list of violations that he must discuss with the mayor's office and city attorney, Tim Lanane, before making the list public.

Lanane said Wednesday evening he expected the city to act on the violations by Friday.

Attempts late Wednesday to speak with Hester about the city's pending allegations were unsuccessful.

[\*\*Back to Fire\*\*](#)

# Herald Journal

## **Flood deadline looms**

March 31 cutoff date approaching for FEMA flood relief funding.

### **Doug Howard**

Reporter

The end is nigh - tell your neighbors.

With a March 31 deadline to apply for government assistance in recovering from this winter's floods, federal and state emergency management agencies are now turning to the public to help get the word out on the deadline for flood victims to register for government aid with recovery.

"We're asking neighbors to knock on neighbors' doors," said Melynda Petrie, a public relations representative with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "If a person has had damage, it's likely that their neighbor may have had damage, too."

This week federal and state emergency management personnel are fanning out throughout northern Indiana area declared a disaster area due to widespread flooding beginning on Jan. 7 and continuing.

Dubbed the "Tell Your Neighbor" campaign, the move is targeting residents who might not have access to the news media.

"Maybe a resident has not necessarily had damage, but they know of someone that did have damage, or they have friends or family," said Petrie. "It's important that they get the word out to people that they need to register by the 31st of March."

Residents affected by the flooding in are eligible to receive direct financial assistance to help with temporary housing costs; unemployment benefits if they were due to the disaster; home repairs not covered by insurance; home replacement or rebuilding costs not covered by insurance; disaster-related medical costs; money for clothes, home furnishings, home heating oil or gas, disaster damaged vehicles, moving or storage costs, and more.

Petrie said Disaster Recovery Centers in Monticello and Delphi will be open for flood victims to meet face to face with FEMA and SBA representatives "as long as necessary to make sure that they can get the residents' questions answered."

In White County, the DRC is located at the County Building Annex, 315 N. Illinois St. and the Carroll County office is located inside the Delphi Middle School gymnasium.

Effective March 15, the centers will be open from 10 am. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on weekdays.

"Residents can also always call the 1-800-621-3362 number, which is 1-800-621-FEMA," said Petrie. "Or, they can go online to register or to find out any information. If they have questions, sometimes the information they're looking for is right there online."

So far, federal, state and local agencies have used newspapers, television, radio, the Internet and door-to-door visits to get the word out on registering for government assistance in disaster recovery. Asking the public to notify neighbors that they may be eligible to receive federal disaster help is just another avenue, Petrie said.

"This is first time that we've actually asked the residents themselves to help us out by spreading the word by word of mouth," said Petrie. "We're concerned that people in the rural areas may not know about registering by the deadline,

and that's why it's important to do this."

Snowmelt and strong storms in early January sparked a series of flood events throughout northern Indiana that prompted President Bush to declare a number of counties in northern Indiana as disaster areas.

Disaster victims are urged to register with FEMA first, then complete and return a loan application through the Small Business Administration by the March 31 deadline. "That's not just for small businesses," said Petrie. "That's also for residents."

"I encourage anyone who has not completed their disaster loan application to do so and meet with a customer service representative at one of the centers located throughout the disaster area for assistance," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Homeowners and renters are eligible for SBA loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture, appliances, and clothing. Loans of up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate.

Loans to business of all sizes and to non-profit organizations are available up to \$1.5 million to repair damage to real estate, machinery, equipment, and inventory.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans are also available to small businesses unable to pay bills or meet operating expenses because of the disaster. The deadline for economic injury applications is Oct. 30, 2008.

In addition, the SBA urges disaster victims with insurance not to wait for settlement before applying to the SBA. If a victim does not know how much of his or her loss will be covered by insurance or other sources, the SBA will consider making a loan for the total loss up to its loan limits, provided the borrower agrees to use insurance proceeds to reduce or repay the SBA loan.

"It is important that people with damage complete and turn in the applications to FEMA by March 31," said Rep. Steve Buyer in a statement. "If people are unsure of the process to register they may call their local Disaster Recovery Center or my office for guidance."

The number there is 574 583-9819.

As of this week, approximately \$10.8 million in grants and loans had been approved to flood victims through FEMA and the SBA.

[\*\*Back to Flooding\*\*](#)